[28th February 1929

Statistics showing the progress of prohibition.

* 1524 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of toddy and foreign liquor shops before and after the commencement of the prohibition experiment in certain taluks of the Presidency (figures to be given separately for each year);

(b) the figures of consumption of toddy and foreign liquor before experiment and during the years of experiment;

(c) the figures of consumption of arrack in the shops adjoining the dry areas before and during the period of experiment ; and

(d) the number of cases of illicit distillation in the dry areas before and after the commencement of the experiment?

A.—(a) to (d) The Government have called for a report.

Opening of an arrack shop at Poonamallee.

* 1525 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state, with reference to the answer to clause (b) of question No. 1324 answered on 1st February 1929 regarding the proposed opening of an arrack shop at Poonamallee,—

(a) whether the Government have received the information called for ; and

(b) if answer to (a) be in the affirmative, whether the Government will place the same on the Council table ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) It is not proposed to open an arrack shop at present. There are one arrack shop at Mangadu on the border of the cantonment one mile away, and another at Tirumushi over $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away, from Old Poonamallee.

Supply of coconut arrack by Messrs. Parry & Co.

* 1526 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to question No. 1326 answered on 1st February 1929 regarding supply of coconut arrack by Messrs. Parry & Co., will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to place before the Council the report called for on the above subject and the action taken thereon and on the suggestion to treat coconut arrack as country liquor ?

A.—The Government have not yet received the report of the Commissioner of Excise.

Medical

Provision for research work in the Madras Medical College.

* 1527 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what provision has been made in the Madras Medical College for research work ;

(b) whether the Professors of the college are engaging themselves in research and if so, whether the Government can place on the Council table the result of their enquiry ; and

(c) what are the hours of work for the Physicians and Surgeons in the General Hospital ?

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A.—(a) & (b) A report [a] on the subject received from the Surgeon-General is laid on the table.

(c) 10 a.m. to 1 p.m

Public Health

Propagation of the evils of consuming opium and liquor.

*1528 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to place on the table of the House copies of the instructions given to the officers of the Health department to carry on propaganda on the evils of opium and liquor consumption?

A.—G.O. No. 1776, P.H., dated 25th August 1925, [b] and G.O. No. 924, P.H., dated 11th May 1927, [b] are placed on the table.

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR:—"It is stated in the answer that there is no objection for Public Health officers drawing attention to the effects of intoxicants. May I ask if they have been given positive instructions to carry on propaganda against drinking?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"The order is printed at pages 19 and 20 which says 'there is no objection to officers of the Public Health department drawing attention in their lectures to the effects of intoxicants on the human body and to the evil results on health of an excessive use of them'."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR:—"With reference to that very point I am asking whether they have been asked to preach for prohibition and whether anybody has done so."

The hon. Mr S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"The matter which the hon. Member has referred to is under the consideration of the Government. Orders will issue soon."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—"With reference to G.O. No 924, may I ask whether the Government have passed any orders defining what amounts to excessive drink, whether it is the drinking of 6 bottles or 20 bottles?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"I have no idea. The Government have no idea of making any such determination."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether the policy of the Government is that officers of the Excise department will not be promoted if the excise revenue falls?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"I do not know of any change of policy. But I doubt whether there was any such policy at any time."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know if the excise revenue falls in a certain area it will be a disqualification for the officer of that area for promotion?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"If the Government think that the fall in the revenue is due to an improper conduct or slackness of the officer, then he will not be promoted, on the other hand, if the Government think that it is due to reduction of the quantity in drinking, it will be no bar to the promotion of the officer."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 267–268 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix III on page 269 infra.